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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 218976

E.O. 11652, GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SOUTH AFRICA: STUDENT RIOTS AND A VORSTER REJOINDER

CAPE TOWN POLICE USED TEAR GAS IN BREAKING UP A SEPTEMBER 2 ANTI-APARTHEID DEMONSTRATION BY COLORED STUDENTS. THE DEMONSTRATION MARKED THE FIRST EXTENSION OF RECENT DISORDERS TO "WHITE" AREAS OF THE CITY. IN THE MEANTIME, PRIME MINISTER VORSTER HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT WHICH IS BEING INTERPRETED BY THE PRESS AS A RESPONSE TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S AUGUST 31 SPEECH. VORSTER HAS STATED:

--"SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POLICY IS DETERMINED BY ITSELF, AND NOT PRESCRIBED FROM OUTSIDE BY ANY PERSON OR COUNTRY."

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--"SOUTH AFRICA HAS GIVEN PLENTIFUL EVIDENCE OF ITS

HONEST EFFORTS TO CREATE A CLIMATE IN WHICH PEACE
FOR OUR SUBCONTINENT CAN BE SOUGHT, AND WILL PERSIST
WITH ITS EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION." (UNCLASSIFIED)
CAPE TOWN 989, PRETORIA 3932, 9/2.

2. SWEDEN: SOCIALISTS NARROW OPPOSITION LEAD IN POLL

AS THE SEPTEMBER 19 ELECTION APPROACHES, EMBASSY STOCKHOLM
REPORTS THAT THE SOCIALIST BLOC--PALME'S SOCIAL DEMOCRATS
AND THE COMMUNIST VPK--HAS CUT BY TWO PERCENTAGE POINTS
THE OPPOSITION'S SUBSTANTIAL EARLY LEAD. ACCORDING TO A
HIGHLY RESPECTED POLL:

--THE SDP NOW TRAILS THE THREE NON-SOCIALIST PARTIES
BY 51 TO 42.5 PERCENT.

--THE VPK IS PREFERRED BY 4.5 PERCENT OF THOSE
POLLED.

THE EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT IS THAT THE ELECTION LOOKS
CLOSE, WITH CONTROL OF THE RIKSTAD HINGING ON A HANDFUL
OF SEATS. IF THE SOCIALISTS CAN MAKE FURTHER GAINS IN
THE CAMPAIGN'S FINAL WEEKS--AS THEY DID FOUR YEARS AGO--
THEY MAY YET BE ABLE TO CONTINUE THEIR 44-YEAR REIGN OF
GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP. A PREREQUISITE WILL BE SUPPORT
FROM ANY VPK DEPUTIES THAT MAY BE ELECTED. (LIMITED
OFFICIAL USE) STOCKHOLM 4736, 9/1.

3. SINGAPORE: REFUGEES NOT WELCOME

IN A SEPTEMBER 2 CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR HOLDRIDGE,
PRIME MINISTER RAJARATNAM:

--WHILE EXPRESSING SYMPATHY WITH THE VIETNAMESE
REFUGEES ARRIVING BY UNSEAWORTHY BOATS OR FOLLOWING
RESCUE AT SEA, WORRIED THAT IF THE WORD GOT AROUND
THAT SINGAPORE WAS RECEPTIVE TO THEM IT WOULD BE
"INUNDATED"; BUT

--INDICATED THAT IF COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE REGION
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WOULD GUARANTEE TO TAKE THE REFUGEES, HE MIGHT TAKE
A DIFFERENT VIEW.

THE AMBASSADOR SAID THE USG COULD NOT ISSUE SUCH GUAR-
ANTEES IN ADVANCE, BUT WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE US COULD
TAKE SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS IF OTHER COUNTRIES COULD BE
PERSUADED TO DO LIKEWISE, AND THAT THE UNHCR COULD
ADEQUATELY TAKE CARE OF THEM PENDING SETTLEMENT.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: I HOPE THAT MY REPRESENTATIONS TO RAJARATNAM WILL HAVE LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR A FOLLOW-UP ON THE MATTER SUBSEQUENT TO HIGHER-LEVEL ATTENTION BY

WALDHEIM OR OTHER APPROPRIATE UN FIGURES. (CONFIDENTIAL)
SINGAPORE 4144, 9/2.

4. BURMA: RANGOON RETURNS TO NORMAL

CESSATION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN RANGOON AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF MILITARY ADMINISTRATION POWERS WAS PROCLAIMED ON AUGUST 31 BY THE GOB. ACCORDING TO AN EARLIER ANNOUNCEMENT, THE SENTENCES OF SOME 4,000 PEOPLE JAILED SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MARTIAL LAW IN DECEMBER 1974 WOULD BE TERMINATED OR REDUCED.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE GOB'S DECISION TO ABOLISH MARTIAL LAW AND RELEASE PRISONERS AT THIS TIME COULD REFLECT AN ATTEMPT TO EASE POLITICAL TENSION WHICH HAS BEEN HIGH SINCE THE ABORTIVE COUP PLOT. (CONFIDENTIAL) RANGOON 3031, 9/2.

5. MEXICO: ECHEVERRIA TO THE UN?

ACCORDING TO A SENIOR OFFICIAL IN THE MEXICAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S CANDIDACY FOR UNSYG IS NOT ONLY STILL ALIVE, BUT WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF INTENSE DIPLOMATIC MANEUVERS IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. BY CHALLENGING THE TRADITIONAL SELECTION PROCESS AND CAUSING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REJECT A SECURITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE, THE GOM HOPES TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS FOR ECHEVERRIA. THE CORNERSTONE OF ECHEVERRIA'S HOPES IS APPARENTLY A CONFIDENTIAL

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PROMISE BY THE PRC TO VETO A SECOND TERM FOR WALDHEIM.

EMBASSY COMMENT: ECHEVERRIA MIGHT HAVE MORE SUPPORT AMONG THE ARABS AND THE AFRICANS THAN FROM MEXICO'S TRADITIONAL ALLIES IN LATIN AMERICA, MANY OF WHOM ARE UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT HIS AMBITIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL)
MEXICO CITY 11196, 8/31. KISSINGER

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